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Culture of peace

Letter dated 30 August 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to your note regarding the International Day of Peace, I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a copy of the statement to be delivered by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa on 21 September 2005, in commemoration of the International Day of Peace.

I would appreciate your issuing it as a document of the General Assembly, under item 45 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/60/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 August 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Message on the occasion of the International Day of Peace

The twentieth century witnessed two world wars that took the lives of millions of men, women and children, in addition to squandering vast resources and energy. Out of the horrific battles and woeful armed struggles that spanned the first 50 years of that century there dawned for the peoples of the world a new day, one of peace and security, embodied in the United Nations and its Charter as an expression of the will of peoples, both free and oppressed, and their vision of a new age in which they would be free of fear, want and the spectre of wars, killing and destruction.

While the Charter of the United Nations eloquently expresses, in both letter and spirit, the ideals, noble aims and lofty principles of the union of peoples and nations aimed at establishing and maintaining peace, achieving international cooperation and guaranteeing coexistence and harmony, the celebration of the International Day of Peace over the past few years at the request of the United Nations General Assembly confirms the striving of human beings everywhere in the world in their development and their journey towards security and peace.

The successes of the international Organization have multiplied in the area of establishing and maintaining peace, preventing wars and warding off the evils of armed clashes resulting from struggles; yet all this has not put an end to conflicts, greed and the violation of commitments, covenants and legal instruments that prohibit the use of force except in accordance with the Charter and based on firmly established international consensus.

Over the many decades since the founding of the international Organization the world has not ceased to suffer the consequences of wars both between States and within States. Indeed, it has been overcome by a strange culture that threatens human values and shakes the foundations of coexistence and peace, a culture of violence and extremism that calls for racial and sectarian partisanship and fanaticism and religious excess under a variety of pretexts. Terrorism, moreover, has become a pervasive phenomenon, advocated by outlaw groups both national and international.

Though it has a long history, this phenomenon has now come to threaten the peace of the world's peoples, the stability of States and the freedom of individuals, making it imperative for the international community and the United Nations to frame a joint plan of action and an international strategy for dealing not only with the phenomenon itself, but also with its consequences and its perpetrators. The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have taken precocious steps in this regard.

In the area of world peace and international security the challenges have grown greater rather than diminishing, whether one speaks of security threats posed by the perils of the nuclear arms race and the spread of weapons of mass destruction or the dangers of civil wars and regional conflicts.

Economic and environmental challenges may pose an even greater threat to world peace. Millions of human beings who live below the poverty line are being mowed down by famine, drought and disease. It has been and is still now essential, therefore, that States which are economically able to do so implement policies of debt cancellation, increased assistance and infrastructure support for the least developed countries.

As for our own region, the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions constituting international legitimacy, the Arab peace initiative and the implementation of the road map in accordance with American President George W. Bush's vision of the coexistence of the two States for the benefit of both their peoples and all the peoples of the region and indeed of the world is the way to restore confidence among all the parties and put an end to the struggle, introducing a new era of stability, development and peace.

Perhaps the consecration of a new strategy for reforming the United Nations and developing its machinery will open the way to building peace and protecting human rights under the aegis of a rejuvenated United Nations in the twenty-first century.